GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4631
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
AMENDMENT IN PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULTERATION ACT
DILEEP SANGHANI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to bringmicrobial contamination of packed milk at the consumer level;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the microbial standard set under BIS standard from plant level to consumer level;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to make the availability of milk in the market free from adulteration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (e) An expert Sub-Committee of the Central Committee for Food Standards(A statutory Committee constituted under the provisions of the Prevention of Food AdulterationAct, 1954) considered the issue relating to laying down parameters for microbiological standards in pasteurized milk in its meeting held in November, 1999. The Committee was of the opinionthat if the milk is pasteurized properly as per the methods of pasteurization, there will not be any pathogen in such milk even if it is not kept in refrigerated condition. The Sub-Committee recommended that milk sold, as pasteurized milk in the market shall givephosphate test as `negative` and these may be implemented by the implementing authorities. The report of the sub-committee will be examined by the Central Committee for Food Standardsin its meeting scheduled to be held on 27th and 28th of April, 2000. As far as general adulteration issues are concerned, State Governments are regularly testing samples of food drawn from market to ensure that it meets the requirements of the relevant provisions of the PFA Rules.